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Executive Committee.—The general officers and the chairman of the subcommittees.

Reception and Entertainment Committee.—Dr. Isadore Dyer, Professor John R. Ficklen, Mrs. I. L. Lyons, Miss Ida Richardson, Mrs. J. P. Richardson, Miss Kate Minor, Mrs. J. R. Ficklen, Judge Charles Fenner, Mr. George Kanske, Miss Kate Gordon, Miss Grace King, Mrs. M. M. Davis, Mr. Charles Godchaux, Mr. E. B. Cushing, Professor B. V. B. Dixon, Mr. Lucien Lyons, Mrs. Craighead, Mr. Theodore Lyons, Captain I. L. Lyons.

Hotels and Boarding Houses.—Andrew Blakley, Theodore Grunewald, Joe Voegtle, J. K. Denechaud, Henry M. Mayo.

Meeting Place and Equipment.—Professor Wilkinson, Professor Creighton, Professor Caldwell, Jr., Professor Anderson, Professor Smith, Professor Barnett and Professor Miller.

Membership Committee.—James H. Dillard, L. W. Wilkinson, Professor W. B. Smith and Dr. J. W. Caldwell.

Transportation Committee.—Hunter C. Leake, Charles Marshall, J. Kemp Ridgely, Robert Strong, E. B. Cushing, D. C. Cunan.

Press and Printing.—John Dymond, Sr., John Dymond, Jr., Ashton Phelps, T. G. Rapin, Major T. E. Davis, Captain J. W. Bostick, Page M. Baker, Norman Walker, Robert Ewing, J. M. Leveque, J. Walker Ross, Henry Steir, Professor J. Hanno Deiler, Professor Alcée Fortier, A. Capdeville, Dr. Martin A. Aldrich, Dr. J. S. Barnett, Professor Walter Miller.

The executive committee of the council of the association consisting of the permanent secretary, the general secretary, the secretary of the council and all secretaries of sections will meet at the office of the permanent secretary in the St. Charles Hotel, at noon, on Thursday, December 28, to revise the program for the week and to make the final arrangements for the opening session of the association, which will be held in one of the large halls of the city, at ten o'clock, on Friday, December 29. The meeting will be called to order by the retiring president, Professor Farlow, who will introduce the president elect, Professor C. M. Woodward. Ad-

resses of welcome will be delivered by Governor Blanchard, by President Craighead and by Mayor Behrmann, and to these addresses President Woodward will reply. The addresses of the vice-presidents of sections will be distributed throughout the week in accordance with the plan adopted at the Philadelphia meeting of the association.

Special features of the meeting will include the address of the retiring president, Professor Farlow, and the public evening lectures will include, if possible, one by some eminent authority on the 'Panama Canal' and another on the subject of 'Irrigation and Drainage.' There will also be an important symposium under the auspices of Section K on the subject of yellow fever and other insect-borne diseases. In this discussion, it is hoped that prominent specialists from the north will take part and that addresses will be made by the men who have borne the brunt of the fight against yellow fever in New Orleans during the past summer, especially Dr. J. H. White, who has had charge of the situation for the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, Dr. Souchon, president of the State Board of Health, and Dr. Kohnke, the health officer of New Orleans, and others.

The local committee will arrange for receptions and excursions to places of interest and route maps of the city will be prepared indicating points of historical interest. The folklore of Louisiana will be handled in an especially interesting manner before Section H.

The following affiliated societies have notified the permanent secretary that they will meet with the association at New Orleans: the American Chemical Society, the Botanical Society of America, the Fern Chapter, the Association of Economic Entomologists, the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

LORD RAYLEIGH has been recommended by the council for election as president of the Royal Society at the anniversary meeting on November 30.

LORD KELVIN has been elected president of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

THE JANSSEN medal of the French Astronomical Society has been awarded to Mr. Percival Lowell for his work on Mars.

DR. JOHN BEDDOE, F.R.S., has been presented with the Huxley medal of the Anthropological Institute for his services to anthropology.

WE learn from *Nature* that a gathering of the old pupils of Mr. Francis Darwin, F.R.S., formerly reader in botany, was held in the botany school of the University of Cambridge on October 28, when his portrait, by Mr. W. Rothenstein, was presented to the botanical department by a body of subscribers, all formerly his pupils. To Mr. Darwin himself was presented a book containing autographs of his pupils. Speeches were made by members of the staff and by other botanists regretting the severance, after twenty-one years, of Mr. Darwin's connection with the botanical department.

PROFESSOR ADAM POLLITZER, of Vienna, well known for his researches on otology, recently celebrated his seventieth birthday, and in accordance with the Austrian law will retire from academic service at the end of the present year.

PRESIDENT DAVID STARR JORDAN, of Stanford University, left Palo Alto on November 8 for New York, where he will attend the meeting of the trustees of the Carnegie foundation for pensioning college professors.

The Observatory says that among visitors at Greenwich lately were Professor W. J. Hussey, professor of astronomy at the University of Michigan, and Professor W. W. Campbell, director, and Dr. and Mrs. Perrine, of the Lick Observatory. Professor W. S. Eichelberger, of the U. S. Naval Observatory, and others who attended the conference at Oxford in September have also visited Greenwich.

PROFESSOR WILHELM OSTWALD is delivering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology a course of six lectures in German on 'The Historical Development of Chemistry.' The course began on November 9.

BARON ERLAND NORDENSKJOLD has returned from an eighteen months' anthropological expedition to the Andes and the northern forests of Bolivia, where he was accompanied by Lieutenant E. de Bildt and Dr. Holmgren.

A MEMORIAL bust of the late Dr. Joule was unveiled on October 28 at Sale, near Manchester. The ceremony was performed by Sir William Bailey, president of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, who delivered an address.

PROFESSOR RALPH COPELAND, astronomer royal of Scotland and professor of astronomy at the University of Edinburgh, died on October 27, at the age of sixty-eight years.

PROFESSOR F. W. HUTTON, F.R.S., curator of the Museum at Christchurch, New Zealand, and president of the New Zealand Institute, died on October 27, at the age of sixty-nine years. Professor Hutton was well known for his contributions to geology, zoology and the theory of evolution.

THERE will be a civil service examination on December 6 to fill a vacancy in the position of computer (male) in the Forest Service at \$1,000 per annum.

AT a meeting of the council of the Royal Society on October 26 the treasurer announced that he had received from Mrs. Tyndall a check for £1,000, which, in accordance with the wishes of the late Professor Tyndall, she desired to have applied to the general purposes of the society.

AT a meeting on October 31 of the general committee of the British Association the following resolution, which has reference to the meeting of the association in 1907, was unanimously adopted: "That having regard to the fact that no meeting of the association has as yet been held in Leicester, the general committee decides to accept the cordial invitation from that town, and at the same time expresses its most hearty appreciation of the kind and courteous invitation from the city of Dublin, and ventures to express the hope that the invitation may be renewed at an early date."

THE telescopes and instruments of the late Dr. Isaac Roberts were sold by auction by

Mr. J. C. Stevens on October 17. The equatorial with the 20-inch reflecting telescope and the 7-inch Cooke refractor are now in the possession of Mr. James Bower, an amateur astronomer of Norwich.

It had been expected that the Simplon tunnel would be opened on January 1, but it is now announced on official authority that the line will not be ready before May 1. Hopes are entertained that this delay will enable electric traction to be employed from the first, a plan which temporarily had been abandoned, but which the Italian government is understood to be desirous of seeing realized.

ACCORDING to a cablegram from Brussels, the Belgian government has authorized an international lottery to collect \$2,000,000 for an expedition to the North Polar regions.

THE Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine announces that it proposes to appoint two qualified medical practitioners to work on trypanosomiasis and spirillosis at the school. The salary to be paid is at the rate of £100 per annum.

MR. HENRY F. SHAW, of Boston, well known in railway circles for his devotion to the problem of balancing the reciprocating parts of locomotives, has presented to Purdue University a model locomotive embodying his latest design. The model is constructed on the scale of one inch to the foot, and is an excellent piece of work.

THE inaugural meeting of the British Science Guild was held at the Mansion House, on October 30, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor of London. Sir Norman Lockyer, in presenting a report on the action of the organizing committee, said, according to the *British Medical Journal*, that the object of the Guild was to encourage the application of scientific method to practical affairs, and especially to education, which should be based upon things and thinking as well as upon words and memory. On the motion of the Bishop of Ripon, seconded by Lord Strathearn and Mount Royal, and supported by Sir W. Mather, the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, K.C., M.P., was unanimously elected first president of the British Science Guild. In acknowledg-

ing his election, Mr. Haldane said that the object of the Guild would be the bringing of method, the bringing of thinking, into the modes of government in public affairs and private industries alike. After referring to the deficiencies in scientific education of the officials of the treasury, the home office and the board of trade, Mr. Haldane said that he believed that things would not be put right until a scientific corps was formed under a permanent committee, just as the defence committee was under the prime minister. Such a corps should consist not merely of officials but of the most eminent scientific men, who would serve in it because they felt that they were honored and put on a proper footing and recognized as a body of men charged with the duty of advising the great department of state on organizing the scientific work of the country. Subsequently a number of vice-presidents and officers of the guild were elected, and a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor brought the proceedings to an end.

REUTER'S representative has had an interview with M. Henryk Arctowski, a member of the scientific staff of the Belgian Antarctic expedition of 1897-1899, which was the first to winter in the south polar regions. M. Arctowski is actively interested in the new scheme of polar exploration as set forth in September at the Congress of Mons, in which King Leopold took such great interest and attended personally. M. Arctowski has just visited London in order to confer with several geographical authorities on the possible outcome of the resolution taken at Mons. He proposes to begin the systematic exploration of the Antarctic regions by a preliminary circumpolar expedition which, organized in Belgium, would leave Antwerp next autumn with the object of exploring the most unknown sections of the south pole in view of finding new lands and suitable places for the establishment of subsequent wintering stations. The most interesting part of M. Arctowski's project is his idea of utilizing an automobile, of special construction, to penetrate into the interior of the Antarctic Continent. He thinks that if this experiment were successful, automobiles could be used on the inland ice to

transport all the material necessary for the establishment of a far advanced station in the interior, whence further explorations could be made. Scientifically this station near the south pole would add very much, by its observations, to the *data* collected by the several expeditions which would be sent out in accordance with the plan of the Association of Polar Explorers.

THE London *Times* says that in view of the suggested transmission of disease by telephone mouthpieces, the General Electric Company has brought out an instrument in which any danger of the sort is avoided by the simple expedient of abolishing the mouthpiece altogether. The receiving and transmitting apparatus is combined in a small metal case, shaped like a watch, which is held continuously to the ear both in speaking and in listening, the transmitting microphone being made so sensitive that it becomes unnecessary to concentrate the sound waves on it by the aid of any mouthpiece such as is ordinarily used. Mounted on a handle, with a speaking key, the new arrangement is exactly similar to the common combined receiver and transmitter, except that there is no mouthpiece, and the speaker, as it were, addresses himself to the world at large, instead of talking into a trumpet-shaped orifice.

A REPORT on the production of natural gas in this country during 1904 will soon be published by the United States Geological Survey. This paper, of which Mr. F. H. Oliphant is the author, contains much information about the composition, production, consumption and uses of this ideal household fuel. The United States is fortunate in its possession, as it produced 98 per cent. of the entire known world's production of natural gas in 1904. This production amounted approximately to 256,645,000,000 cubic feet, or 6,159,480 tons of 2,000 pounds. The value of this production was \$38,496,760, which was an increase of \$2,688,900 over the value of the 1903 production. There was much active work in 1904 in the new fields of central Ohio and southeastern Kansas. In Kansas a number of remarkably large wells were developed. A

large amount was expended in drilling wells, extending many pipe lines, and piping cities and villages in these states. In West Virginia a considerable number of new wells of large capacity were drilled and connected to the main lines. Four states, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Indiana and Ohio produced 93.3 per cent. of the entire value of natural gas produced in the United States in 1904. The output of Pennsylvania alone represented 47 per cent. of the entire value. This is interesting when it is remembered that Pennsylvania is the oldest state producing natural gas in large quantity.

PROFESSOR SILVANUS P. THOMPSON writes, according to the London *Times*, "No one seems to have recalled, in connection with the commemoration of Sir Thomas Browne, at Norwich, that he was the first person to use the word 'electricity' as a noun. Gilbert and others who followed him had adopted the term 'electrics' to denote substance which, like amber, became attractive when rubbed; but they had used no name for the unseen itself. The first occurrence of the substantive in English (or, for that matter, in any language) occurs on page 79 of the 'Pseudodoxia Epidemica' (1646) in the following passage: 'Glasse attracts but weakly though cleere, som slick stones and thick glasses indifferently; Arsenic not at all; Saltes generally but weakly, as Sal Gemma, Alum, and also Talke; nor very discoverably by any friction: but if gently warmed at the fire, and wiped with a dry cloth, they will better discover their Electricities.' Sir Thomas Browne also claims the gratitude of posterity for the narration on page 76 of his own experiments to expose the fable of the wireless telegraphing by sympathy between two magnets."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MR. JAMES SPEYER has given to Columbia University \$50,000 to endow the Theodore Roosevelt professorship of American history and institutions at the University of Berlin. Dr. J. W. Burgess, professor of political science and constitutional law and dean of the faculty of political science at Columbia Uni-